



## Stuart Smith

Member of Parliament for Kaikoura

24<sup>th</sup> November 2022

To Whom It May Concern

Marlborough Community Vehicle Trust application for funding for a hybrid vehicle

I am writing this letter of support for Marlborough Community Vehicle Trust (MCVT) in their application to the Lotteries Commission to purchase a hybrid car.

MCVT provide an invaluable service transporting residents from outlying rural areas in Marlborough to Nelson so that they may attend their specialist medical appointments. These passengers are in general vulnerable, elderly folk who are unable to drive themselves to Nelson for a variety of reasons and are reliant on MCVT to carry them to and from their medical appointments, at an affordable fee.

The MCVT is run by a group of volunteers who willingly give of their time to convey and assist those passengers – oftentimes leading to 12 hours days as they wait for their passengers to attend their appointments and drive them home safely afterwards.

The Trust's 3 vehicles, however, are themselves elderly: expensive to maintain, and, with fuel costs rising plus added climate change concerns, the Trust believes they should be looking ahead and fundraising for a hybrid vehicle. An Electric vehicle is not an option due to a current lack of charging ports en route.

I commend MCVT for not only their invaluable contribution to our vulnerable community, but also for their foresight and I offer my full support in their application to the Lotteries Commission.

Should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me at my office on 03 5793204.

Yours sincerely

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